

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Masatsugu HIRAYAMA  
Title: IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND  
IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: November 22, 2000  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned



**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**CONCISE EXPLANATION OF**  
**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

Document A1 discloses a technique for creating a histogram based on input image data, calculating black and white reference values, and executing density adjusting processing on the input image data on the basis of the calculation results.

Document A2 discloses a technique for calculating a background density level on the basis of input image data, and creating a density changing table used for changing the density of the input image.

English translations of documents A1 and A2 are not readily available; however, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted documents (37 C.F.R. § 1.98 and M.P.E.P. § 609). English language abstracts are provided for documents A1 and A2.

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

Respectfully submitted,

Date November 22, 2000

FOLEY & LARDNER  
Washington Harbour  
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20007-5109  
Telephone: (202) 672-5489  
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By



Johnny A. Kumar  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 34,649

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<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION</b>  <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>				APPLICANT Masatsugu HIRAYAMA			
				FILING DATE November 22, 2000		GROUP ART UNIT Unassigned	

921 U.S. 11/22/00  
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
	REF	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB- CLASS	TRANSLATION	
							YES	NO
	A1	2000-83166	3/21/00	Japan				Abstr.
	A2	11-187266	7/9/99	Japan				Abstr.

OTHER DOCUMENTS <i>(Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)</i>		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
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\* EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include any copy of this form with next communication to applicant.